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SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 30 September 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward herewith the text of the declaration issued by the enlarged meeting of the Contact Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) on Bosnia and Herzegovina, at the level of Foreign Minister, held on 29 September 1994 at the United Nations. I also forward a copy of the letter of the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, in his capacity as Chairman of the Group, addressed to the President of the Security Council on behalf of the States members of OIC.

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annexes could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 39, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jamsheed K. A. MARKER
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX I

Letter dated 29 September 1994 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan addressed to the President of the Security Council

An enlarged meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina, at the level of Foreign Ministers, was held today at the United Nations to consider the deteriorating situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I have been authorized by this meeting to convey to you and through you to the members of the Security Council, the deep disappointment and concern of the Organization of the Islamic Conference States over the recent adoption by the Security Council of resolution 943 (1994), on 23 September 1994, partially easing the sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). The hasty adoption of the said resolution constitutes a major set-back to the international efforts to secure peace with justice in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Ironically, it has come at a time when there has been a sharp escalation in Serb-sponsored violence against the Bosnian people, renewed strangulation of Sarajevo and the intensification of the ethnic cleansing campaigns in Banja Luka, Bijeljina and Prejedor.

The Ministers also wish to convey their deep sense of regret at the fact that the Security Council, despite the appeal made by OIC to defer the adoption of the said resolution, did not find it possible to do so.

The Security Council has obviously responded to tactical moves by those responsible for the initiation and prosecution of aggression and genocide against the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina; overlooked the Serb rejection of the five-nation peace plan; and disregarded the views of the international community particularly of the States members of OIC on this issue. The easing of sanctions is thus tantamount to rewarding aggression.

The minimum requirements for any reappraisal of the sanctions regime, namely, the recognition by Serbia and Montenegro of the international borders, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as of the Republic of Croatia and of all other States of the Republic of former Yugoslavia and the establishment of an adequate and effective international monitoring mechanism for interdiction of military supplies across the borders from Serbia and Montenegro to the Bosnian Serbs, have not yet been met.

We, therefore, highly regret this decision and would urge the Security Council to withdraw the temporary exemptions granted to Serbia and Montenegro under Security Council resolution 943 (1994).

While even today, some representatives of the five-nation contact group member States report of continuing violations of the border of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Serbia and Montenegro, we are dismayed that the suspension of the sanctions is proceeding under resolution 943 (1994). It would

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be timely now for the Security Council to reconsider and to take measures to suspend the implementation of resolution 943 (1994).

In our view, any further review of policy by the Council on this issue should be taken after due deliberations and in consultation with all States directly concerned, including the OIC Contact Group, as well as the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

While noting that the mandate of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) will be extended by another six months, we deplore the threats made by certain countries to withdraw their troops from UNPROFOR, should the arms embargo be lifted. The withdrawal of some troop contingents from UNPROFOR would not end the role of the United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina. There are over 50 resolutions pertaining to Bosnia and Herzegovina that have to be defended and enforced by the Security Council. The OIC countries contributing troops to UNPROFOR are willing to contribute additional troops to strengthen UNPROFOR as well as to replace any withdrawal. We believe that the mandate of UNPROFOR should be strengthened in order to enable it to discharge fully its responsibilities.

(Signed) Sardar Aseff Ahmad ALI
Foreign Minister of Pakistan and
Current Chairman of the
Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers

ANNEX II

Declaration of the enlarged meeting of the Contact Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on Bosnia and Herzegovina at the level of Foreign Ministers, held at the United Nations on 29 September 1994

1. An enlarged meeting of the Contact Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) on Bosnia and Herzegovina at the level of Foreign Ministers and the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference was held on 29 September 1994 in New York, to review the deteriorating situation in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina resulting from the Serb rejection of the Peace Plan.

2. The Foreign Ministers reaffirm the provisions of all OIC declarations and resolutions pertaining to Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as their commitment to safeguarding the political independence, territorial integrity, sovereignty and unity of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

3. The Foreign Ministers note with consternation the adoption of Security Council resolution 943 (1994) concerning the easing of sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). In this context, they express their deep regret and disappointment over the hasty fashion, not warranted by the current situation, in which the Security Council proceeded to adopt the resolution, notwithstanding the joint démarche of the States members of the Contact Group to the President of the Security Council in this regard.

4. The Foreign Ministers conclude that the adoption of resolution 943 (1994) was unjustified, untimely and not conducive to efforts for promoting a just peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It sends a wrong signal, especially in view of the sharp intensification of Serb-sponsored violence and the drastic strangulation of Sarajevo, Srebrenica, Zepa, Gorazde and other Bosnian cities and continuous violations of the safe areas by the Bosnian Serb side.

5. The Foreign Ministers note that the most important conditions that should have preceded the adoption of any such resolution have not been met, namely the demand for the recognition by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as of the Republic of Croatia and other States of the former Republic of Yugoslavia, within their internationally recognized borders and the establishment of an effective border-monitoring system that could appropriately facilitate the consideration of such matters before the Council.

6. While appreciating the commitment of members of the monitoring team, the Foreign Ministers reiterate their serious concern that the actual system of monitoring has not been appropriately supplemented. The Foreign Ministers seriously question the capability of this team to carry out its duty accordingly, owing to the ineffective deployment and lack of necessary resources.

7. The Foreign Ministers are appalled at the reports of continuous ethnic cleansing perpetrated by the Bosnian Serbs. In this regard, they take note of resolution 941 (1994) and yet reiterate, as a matter of urgency, the need for a more resolute response to such a deplorable practice. They condemn this abominable practice and call for an immediate and unconditional deployment of UNPROFOR troops to deter any further expulsion by the Bosnian Serbs.

8. The Foreign Ministers strongly condemn recent actions by the Bosnian Serbs that have led to the further strangulation of Sarajevo by cutting off gas, water and electricity supplies and communication lines, and the closure of the "blue routes" and the closure of the airport in view of threats by the Bosnian Serb side. They call for securing full compliance by Serbs with relevant resolutions on "safe areas"/exclusion zones and demand a strong response to such violations, including the use of air power by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

9. The Foreign Ministers deplore the threats made by certain countries to withdraw their troops from UNPROFOR should the arms embargo be lifted. The withdrawal of some troop contingents from UNPROFOR does not end the role of the United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina. There are over 50 resolutions pertaining to this issue that have to be defended and enforced by the Security Council. They express their readiness to contribute their troops to UNPROFOR to offset any shortfall created by the eventual withdrawal of existing contingents and to augment UNPROFOR troop requirements. Stressing the need for strengthening the mandate of UNPROFOR in order to implement fully its task, they call for the strong protection and extension of the safe areas as enunciated in Security Council resolutions 824 (1993) and 836 (1993) and in accordance with provisions of article 6 of the five-nation contact group plan, and paragraph 4 of the NATO communiqué of 9 February 1994.

10. The Foreign Ministers reaffirm their call for the lifting of the de facto arms embargo unjustly imposed against the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. They welcome the offer made by His Excellency Alija Izetbegovic, President of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina in a statement before the General Assembly on 27 September 1994, for an immediate de jure lifting of the arms embargo imposed upon the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina by the Security Council. They consider that this offer represented a significant compromise made by the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina in its efforts to achieve peaceful settlement in the context of its territorial integrity and sovereignty. In the context of the offered compromise, the Foreign Ministers also welcome the call of the President of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina for a unilateral response by members of the international community, in the event that the compromise proposal is not effectuated by members of the five-nation contact group.

11. The Foreign Ministers emphasize the need for close, concerted efforts and the establishment of an action-oriented working relationship between the OIC Contact Group and the five-nation contact group and express their readiness to work together with the five-nation contact group with a view to ensuring peace with justice in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

12. The Foreign Ministers decide to coordinate their efforts for the submission of an appropriate resolution on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina for adoption by the current session of the General Assembly as well as in other forums of the United Nations system.

13. The Foreign Ministers also call upon the Security Council to enforce the relevant decisions of the International Court of Justice and to implement appropriately all existing Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.